GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1440
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
OBJECTIVES OF FORMING SELF HELP GROUPS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives to form Self-Help Groups in rural habitations of the country ;

(b) whether any internal review has been done of the implementation and functioning of this scheme;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to modify the scheme ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a): The objectives to form the Self- Help Groups (SHGs) are to Organize the rural poor through a process of social mobilization and their capacity building for poverty alleviation.The process enables the poor to build up their own organisations i.e. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in which they participate fully and directly and take decisions for their economic upliftment.

(b) & (c): The SHG approach was reviewed in a `National Conference on Self-Help Groups Movement in the country and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana` at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad during June 23-24, 2001. In the conference SHG was highlighted as an essential element for social mobilization of the poor and their capacity building for rural poverty alleviation. It was also resolved in the conference to make SHG as a National Movement and to have at least one SHG in each habitation of the country by 2004.

The SHG approach is also reviewed through specific research studies. One such study, conducted recently, reiterates the importance of the SHG in the implementation of the SGSY. The recommendations made by the study, to strengthen the implementation of the SGSY through SHGs, include the following:

(i) Scaling of activities for social mobilization.

(ii) Social orientation of the grass root level functionaries.

(iii) Involving Community Animators.

(iv) Mandating women groups and women functionaries.

(v) Participation of Gram Sabhas and Palli Sabhs.

(vi) Increase participation of the line departments.

(d) & (e): There is no such proposal at present.